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History of the "Goods"





*E. H. Good*

HISTORY

of the

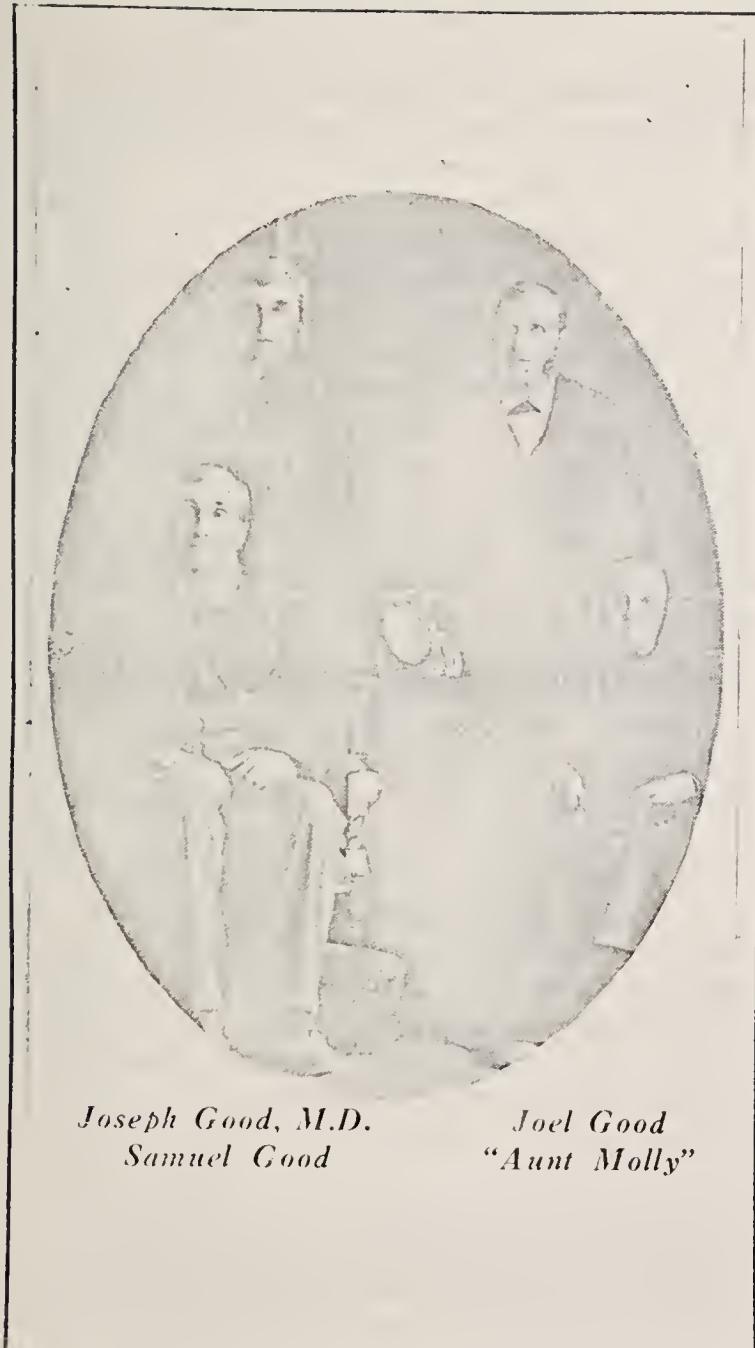
"Good" Ancestry

By

*Elias H. Good*

Kitchener, Ont.,  
August 5th, 1929





## History of the “GOOD” ANCESTRY

*written by E. H. GOOD for*  
The “Good Re-union”, at Gowanstown, Ont.,  
August 5, 1929

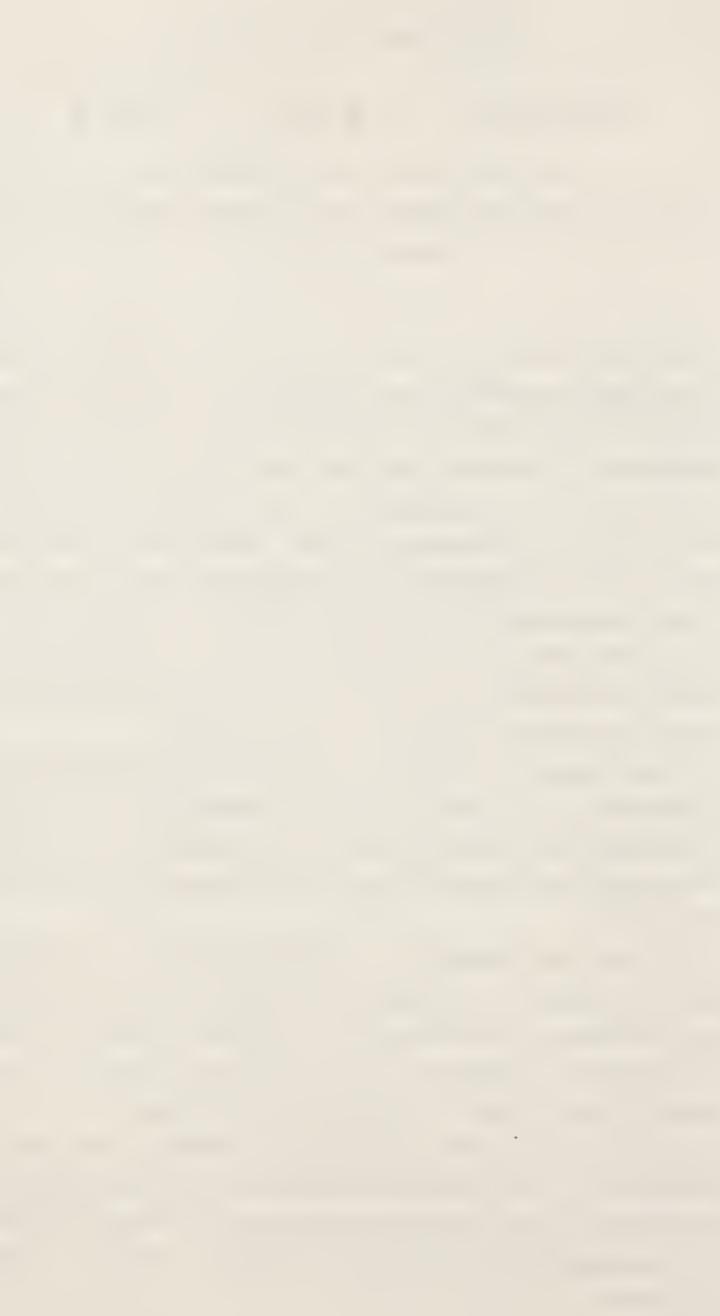
In the latter part of the seventeenth century, about 1650 to 1675, the “Guths” (as the name was spelled then) who were living at that time in Southern Germany, the location being then named or known as “Palantinate” or “Phaltz,” (an old division in Germany, now being discarded on maps) they being of the Mennonite faith, and not being exempted of military duties by the German Government, as they wished to be, emigrated to other countries, some going to Switzerland, and others going to England and Ireland.

The name “Guth” has almost invariably been changed to “Good,” some, though, spelling it “Goode,” this being more so in England and Ireland than in Pennsylvania, but generally is spelled “Good.”

There are about 50 or 60 families of “Goods” and “Goodes” of English and Irish descent living in Toronto, and others at Paris, Brantford, Orillia, Walkerton, Carleton Place (near Ottawa), and other places, two or three at Kitchener.

Mr. W. C. Good of Paris, Ontario, who was a member of Parliament in the Drury Government (Ontario) is of Irish descent, and Arthur C. Good, a prominent lawyer, of Buffalo, N.Y., is his brother.

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### *The History of the "Goods"*

So much of the "Goods" from England and Ireland, and I will now refer to the ancestors of the "Goods" who are present here today at this reunion.

About the year 1737, three brothers, Abraham Guth, Peter Guth and Christian Guth, emigrated from Switzerland to the United States, locating in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the vicinity of the river later named Conestogo, and what is known at the present day as the Conestogo Valley. Here Abraham Guth died in 1743, leaving no heirs. Christian Guth was married to Anna Schmidt. Peter Guth moved to Virginia about the year 1759, where he engaged in the flour milling business, having a large over-shot waterwheel for power. In those days, Indians were quite numerous, and on several occasions his mill was raided by the Indians, helping themselves to anything they wanted and, as Peter was very much afraid of them, when he saw them coming, he would crawl down through the mill to the tail race, thinking he would save his scalp and life by getting out of their sight in hiding himself.

The "Goods" gathered here are descendants of Christian Guth, who was born in Switzerland about the year 1690, and was our great, great, great grandfather. The family consisted of two sons and three daughters. The sons' names were Peter and John. As we are descendants of John, we will follow his line.

John Guth was our great, great grandfather, and was born in the year 1731. He had four children, namely—Joseph, Jacob, Samuel, and one daughter.

Jacob Guth, being a son of John Guth, was our

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great grandfather, and was born in May, 1754. Jacob's son, John, was our grandfather, who emigrated from Pennsylvania to Waterloo.

John Good, our grandfather (name changed here to "Good"), was born near Bowmanville, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in March, 1777. In 1800, he was married to Magdalena Baumann, a daughter of Christian Baumann, who lived in Berks County, Pa. She was born on January 9, 1783. They had a family of six children, namely—Anna, Jonathan, Joseph, Magdalena, Joel and Samuel, all of whom were born on the old homestead at Bowmanville, except Samuel, who was born in Waterloo.

At the present day, the descendants of the three brothers who came from Switzerland number into hundreds, even thousands, in Lancaster County, Pa., and the name "Good" is as common as name as Smith or Miller, or any name you may wish to mention, and is not an odd or uncommon name there; even a town in Lancaster County is called Goodville.

The old homestead in Pennsylvania of our grandfather, John Good, is located adjoining the town of Bowmanville, which is in Lancaster County. The house has been torn down years ago, and the spot where it had stood is now used as part of the garden.

The stone bank barn, which was built before 1800, probably 130 years ago or more, is there at the present time, and is yet in very good condition. The stone walls are built right up to the roof at the gable ends, also up to the roof at the front, except where the large doors are. The back of the barn



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is boarded up. The stones in the walls are fitted together, probably having only an inch of mortar between them, and is different workmanship than masons do for bank barns nowadays in Canada.

In Lancaster County, the roads run in any direction just the same as here in Waterloo Township, and the buildings on farms are very similar.

The old John Good homestead at Bowmanville is now owned by a Mr. Gehman, whose wife's maiden name was Bowman, she being a second cousin to us children of Dr. Joseph Good, Joel Good, Samuel Good and Aunt Molly.

The former name for Bowmanville, years ago, was "Bucks Stettel," so named by a Mr. Good, a bachelor, who lived alone, about a mile out of town. One evening as he was in town, the boys of those days being inclined to have some fun as well as the boys do of our days, there happened to be a ram running at large on the street, and the boys thought it would be great fun if they would tease the ram, getting him into a fighting mood. They succeeded in this, and got the ram to bunt this bachelor over and over unmercifully. After that, this Mr. Good, the bachelor, always called the place "Bucks Stettel," that being how it came to have that name. This was over 150 years ago, and it retained that name until about 1800, when it was changed to Bowmanville, being so named after Samuel Bowman, who had a general store there and was also a land surveyor, he being an uncle to Dr. Joseph Good, Joel Good, Samuel Good and Aunt Molly.

In the spring of the year 1818, our grandfather, John Good, emigrated from Bowmanville, Lan-

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caster County, Pa., to Canada, and bought 188 acres of land, which later got to be in the town of Waterloo, Ontario. The trip was made by a "Conestogo Wagon," which is a large canvas covered wagon, and one of these remarkable four-horse wagons which was used in making the trip over 100 years ago was presented to the Waterloo County Historical Society, and at the present time can be seen in the basement of the Public Library at Kitchener.

The party of this emigration consisted of John Good, our grandfather, with his wife and five children (Samuel Good was born in Waterloo), Christian Burkholder, with wife and six children, widow Elizabeth Bowman, Esther Wismer (afterwards married to John Cressman), Samuel Bechtel and Benjamin Bowman, making the trip in twenty-eight days. Bechtel and Bowman were unmarried, and drove the teams for John Good and Elizabeth Bowman. John Good and Christian Burkholder had very heavy loads, and each of their wagons was drawn by five horses.

John Good, our grandfather, settled on the farm one mile north of the Town Hall, Waterloo (the Joel Good homestead), and Christian Burkholder settled on the farm adjoining on the east, the old Jesse Snyder farm.

Our grandfather, John Good, had his wagon loaded with all kinds of household goods, cooking utensils, implements, eatables, feed for the five horses and so on. There were also one or more cows brought along, which supplied milk for the trip. When camping for the night, the meals were prepared in the open, also having a tent for shelter.



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On one oecasion, a bear stole a ham during the night which had been hanging outside the wagon. They were always prepared to ward off wolves with pitch forks and rifles, and to hear wolves howling during the night was not uncommon at that time. It certainly was not the most pleasant kind of a trip, being jolted about dreadfully in the wagon over the rough and rugged roads, and sleeping in the wagon or tent as best they could. Nowadays, we think we must ride in Pullmans, and even then find fault with the accommodations.

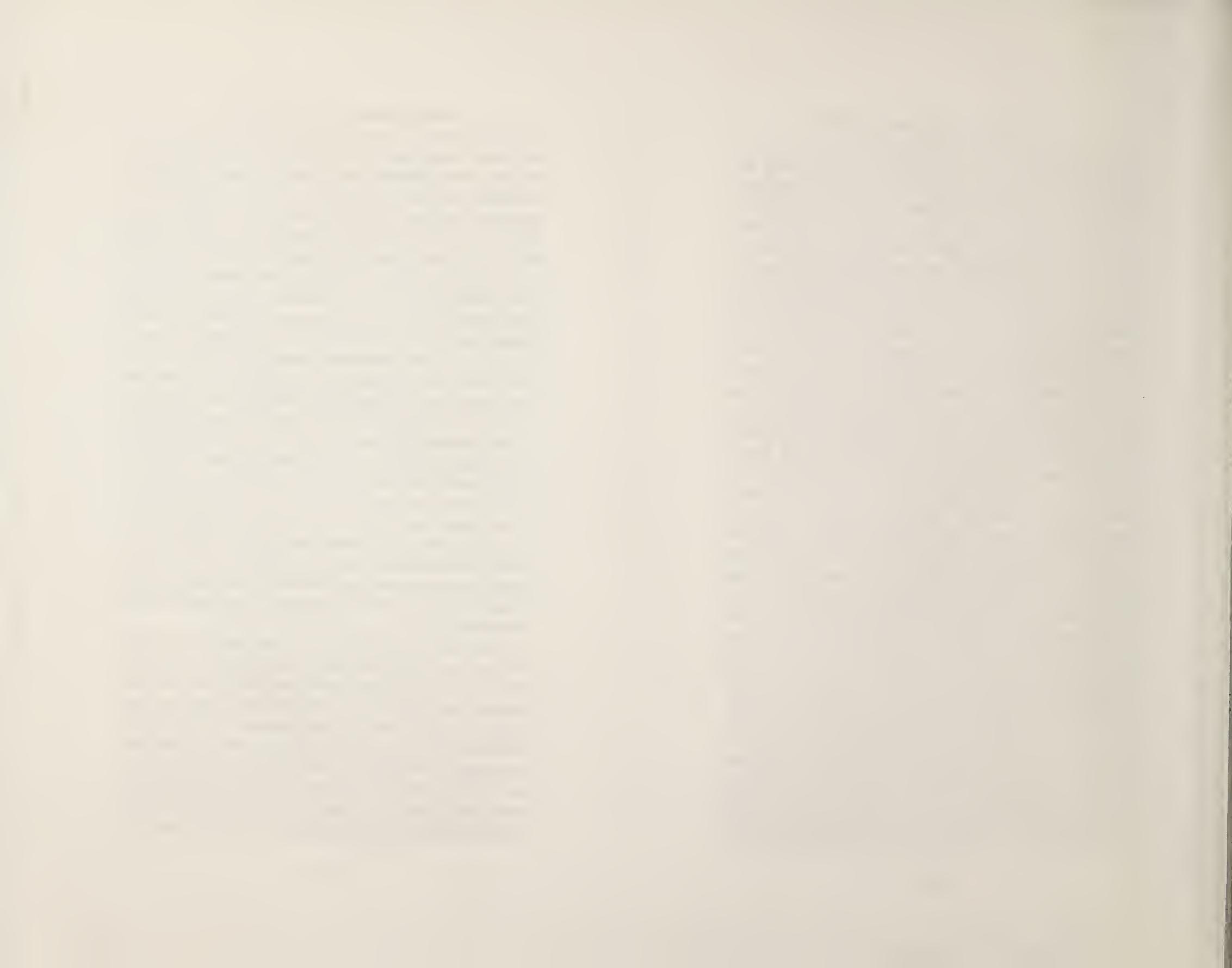
I can imagine our grandfather sitting at the front end of the large wagon in the opening of the canvas, cracking his long whip over the five horses, and yelling mighty whoops of "Gid-dap" at Rock (which was the name of the front horse) when they were crossing hills and streams, or when stuck in the swamps. What a time it must have been getting across the Niagara River at Black Rock, which adjoins Buffalo, N.Y. When the first settlers from Pennsylvania came here they made their wagon boxes watertight by putting moss in the cracks, and in this way floated their belongings across the river, taking only part of their load at a time and the horses and cows had to swim across. Later they used rafts, which were then called "flats," and were propelled across with oars. Likely at the time when our grandparents crossed, facilities for crossing the river had been improved to some extent, as apparently the wagon with the whole load on it was taken over on one of those "flats," and while out in the river, our father then being only a few months over two years old, and not being able to talk much yet, poked his head

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out from underneath the canvas at the side of the wagon, and looking out at the water, exclaimed "Wa-wa, wa-wa," for water. Going through the swampy land at "The Twenty," so called after the creek which was twenty miles long and being where St. Catharines is located, then going through the Beverley Swamp, which is southeast of Galt, and about three or four miles across, the road being made by the emigrants putting in logs and fixing it up in any way so teams could travel over, and were called corduroy roads. What a time it must have been of crossing creeks and rivers, as there were no bridges then, and many a time part of the load had to be taken off before crossing creeks, rivers, hills and swamps, and then go back and fetch what had been unloaded before crossing.

As stated before, this trip took twenty-eight days, and surely must have been a great hardship in getting to this new country of promise, where a new home was to be hewed out of the virgin forest, which meant hard labor in clearing the land, logging and burning up the finest kind of timber, which at the present day would be so useful and valuable.

Our grandfather built a house of logs on arriving and in the year 1823, built a bank barn, which is still on the old homestead in Waterloo, at the present day. In 1824, unfortunately, the house was burned down, the fire originating by the girls, Anna and Molly, putting their clothes around the stovepipe at the floor in order to have them warm in the morning, and practically all the contents were lost, for the reason that there had been several loaded rifles hanging on the wall, and all



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were afraid they might be discharged any moment caused by the heat; therefore no one ventured to go into the house. The house was rebuilt the same year, and was occupied until about 1920, when it was torn down.

Those were the days when homespun clothes were worn, lard lamps and tallow candles for light, when wild pigeons were so plentiful that they shaded the sun and the youngsters had to watch the newly seeded grain fields to prevent the pigeons eating up the seed, when boots were greased every Saturday night with lard and tallow, and when the long tin dinner horn was blown by grandmother, thrilling through the woods, to let the wood-choppers know that the "sauer kraut and speck" was cooked and ready for them, the cooking having been done in the open fire-place.

Our grandmother's maiden name was Bowman, she having been a sister to Samuel Bowman, the general merchant and surveyor, at Bowmanville. So all the "Goods" here at this reunion are related to practically all of the Bowmans and Baumanns, which is the same, as the name Bowman had originally been Baumann.

Our grandfather, John Good, later sold fifty acres of the old homestead to Dr. Joseph Good, and was the Dr. Joseph Good homestead till about the year 1878, when he moved to Culross Township, in Bruce County, about six or seven miles west of Walkerton. He was a self-made man, having learned the medical profession himself without taking a course in college, and practised for years, unmolested, without a license, but at the age of 65 years, he took his examination at

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Toronto, and was awarded his diploma without trouble, and was a full-fledged licensed medical doctor thereafter. He also quit using tea and coffee about the same time, drinking cold water with all his meals during the rest of his life.

The old John Good homestead, the balance of 138 acres, was later sold to my father, Joel Good, and was owned by him till about the year 1909.

When my father, Joel Good, was about twenty years old he took a trip to Bowmanville, Pa., by horseback, the way of travelling in those days, as there were no railroads then. While visiting there, his uncle, Samuel Bowman, took quite an interest in him, and Father was quite interested in Uncle Sam's work of surveying, and so one day Uncle Sam Bowman asked Father if he would like to learn to be a surveyor also, to which Father replied in a despairing way, "I could never learn to be a surveyor," to which Uncle Sam Bowman replied, "Why, you could learn it inside of a month." Father, being very doubtful, likely shook his head somewhat but, being interested, finally made up his mind to try it and, after a week of instructions, Uncle Sam told Father to take his instruments and measure a field which was adjoining the town. Father did so and figured out that it contained exactly twenty acres. Uncle Sam then said to him that he had done very well, very well, only making a mistake of ten acres, as it was only a ten-acre field. Father then set earnestly to work again, measuring and re-measuring the field over and over, until he had succeeded in having it right, and understood how to do it, and in the short time of three weeks, had accomplished being a surveyor.



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On his way home to Canada, he bought a surveying outfit at Buffalo, N.Y., for forty dollars. Immediately on his return home, he began to get jobs for surveying, there being no surveyor nearer than Hamilton, forty miles distant, and in his time, surveyed practically all of the northern part of Waterloo County, also considerable of the southern part of the county and elsewhere, and used the same compass and outfit, with the exception of the chains which wore out, which was for probably sixty or sixty-five years.

The general remark by people was that Joel Good was a good surveyor, and Mr. Herbert J. Bowman of Kitchener, a Provincial licensed land surveyor, remarked to me at different times that he found very, very few mistakes in Joel Good's surveyings.

The surveying outfit is now in my brother Milton Good's possession.

My uncle, Samuel Good, the youngest of the family, was born in 1823, on the old homestead in Waterloo. He was one of the scholars who attended school in the old pioneer log school-house which was built in 1820, then located at the corner of the present school grounds, north King Street, Waterloo, which was later moved to the Waterloo Park, where it may be seen at the present day, furnished with the old desks and benches as used 100 years ago. The late Benjamin Burkholder, an old-time pioneer teacher, taught in this school for many years.

Uncle Sam, in his younger days, learned the carpenter and joiner trade, and was noted for fine workmanship. About the year 1852, he and

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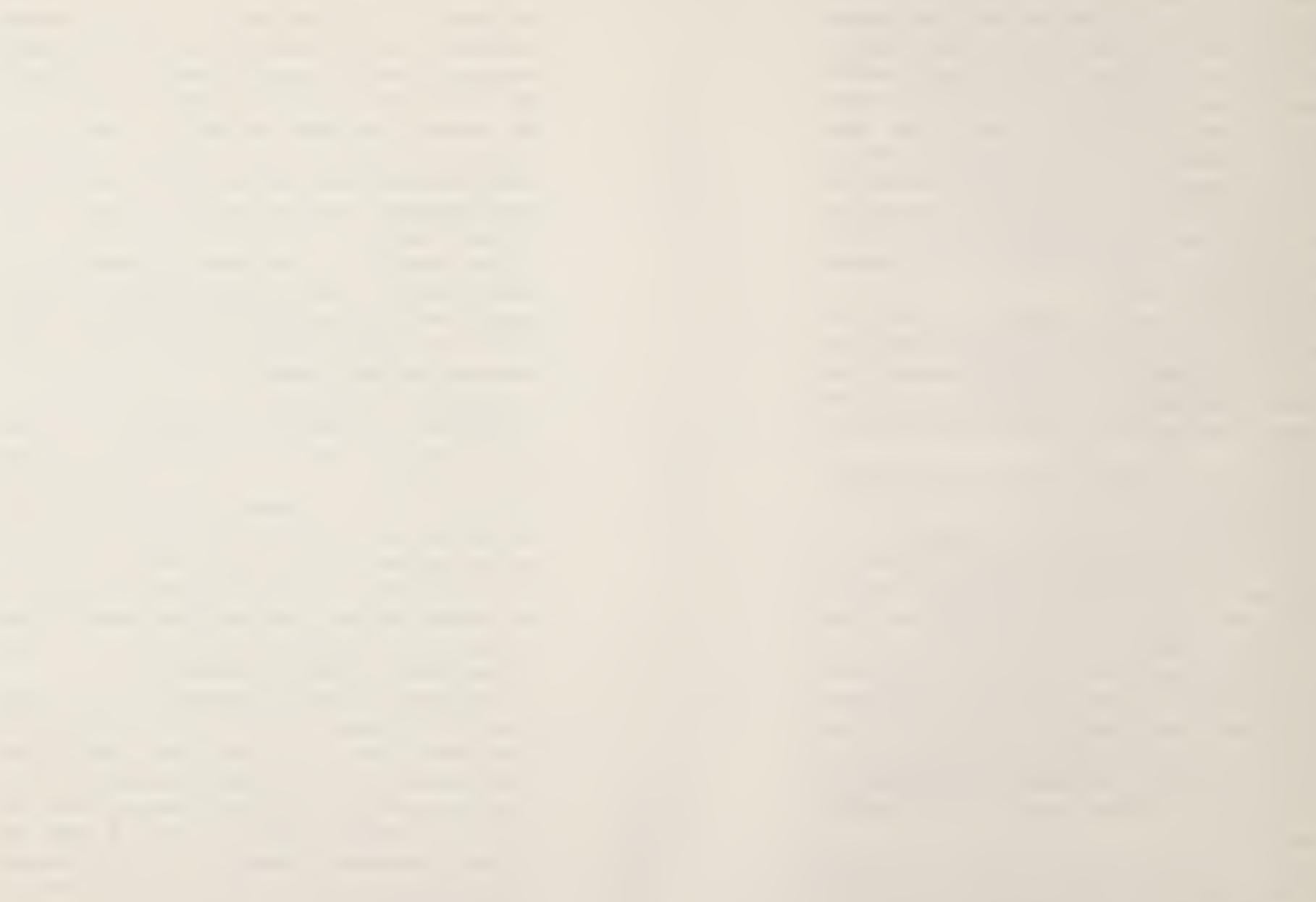
my father, Joel Good, entered into partnership, engaging in a saw mill and furniture industry, which was located one mile west of the village of St. Jacobs, my uncle having the management of the business, my father not taking an active part. Water was used for power, having an over-shot water wheel 28 feet in diameter, the water having been conveyed from the dam in a flume erected on trestle work.

They manufactured all kinds of household and office furniture, their products being of the best quality and workmanship, and articles of their manufacture at the present time in possession of relatives are highly prized. The business was discontinued some years later.

In 1862, my uncle then engaged in farming, having purchased land in the township of Wallace, Perth County, located about thirty-five miles northwest of Waterloo and about three miles from the present town of Listowel. He was one of the earliest settlers in that district, which at that time was also known as "Queen's Bush," so called for the reason that the land had been owned by the Crown (or Government), this being in the time of the reign of Queen Victoria.

The roads at that time were not much better than trails through the woods, there being very few bridges, such as had been made of logs, and temporary only, through swamps and marshes, logs were used for filling up to make a road bed, and were called "corduroy roads." I think the younger generation of today, in having a ride over such a log road, would prefer to call it a humpty-dumpty road, instead of a corduroy road.

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Uncle Sam went through a real pioneer's life, having built a log house with his own hands, and also put up a log barn, and continued year after year in the clearing of the land, and by hard and persistent work, transformed the bush farm into one of the best farms in the township of Wallaee, the old log structures having been replaced with modern buildings, having all the comforts of farm life.

Those were the days of hard labor, and the younger generation can hardly comprehend what it really meant for the pioneers to found the transformation of the wooded land in its natural state into the beautiful and prosperous country as it is today.

Uncle Sam was of a very happy and cheerful disposition, a hearty and warm welcome being extended at all times, and was the kindest type of a neighbor, ever ready with a helping hand, and was highly respected and beloved by all.

He was a faithful leader in the church, his principles good and sound, and took active part in all moral reforms. He was a very sincere and conscientious man; in short, he was a model man in every respect.

Our grandfather, John Good, was born March 18, 1777, and died on January 10, 1862, nearly eighty-five years old, and our grandmother, Maddalena Bowman, was born January 9, 1783, and died March 22, 1859, being seventy-six years old. Anna Good, our aunt, their eldest daughter, was born January 12, 1801, was married to Matthias Haug, and died November 15, 1843, nearly forty-three years old. Jonathan Good, our uncle, their

oldest son, was born December 20, 1802, and died February 2, 1834, being about thirty-one years old.

The descendants of John Good, our grandfather, will likely number from 250 to 300 today.

The descendants of Joel Good number well up to 120 or thereabouts.

Dr. Joseph Good lived to the age of ninety-nine years and six months; Joel Good, ninety-six years and five months; Samuel Good, ninety-two years, and Aunt Molly, eighty-eight years. They surely were hardy pioneers.

In conclusion, I would like to add that the Chief of Police in Manchester, whose name is "Good," made the statement that he never in all his time had a "Good" behind the bars, never knew of a "Good" having been deported or chased out of the country, and why should the "Goods" here at this reunion not feel proud, when, at the present time in the Herbert Hoover Cabinet, Hon. James W. Good, a distant Pennsylvania relative of ours, is Secretary of War for the United States of America at Washington, D.C.

ELIAS H. GOOD



## Mennonite History and “GOOD” ANCESTRY

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In the year of 1536, Simon Menno renounced his connections with the Catholic Church, of which body he was a priest. He was a Nonconformist, against all manner of warfare, nor to be prevailed upon of the taking of oaths in court. Later on all Nonconformists of Northern Italy, France, Switzerland, Holland, Germany, Denmark and even Russia were cruelly persecuted and subjected to all manner of sufferings. Eventually, Simon Menno was chosen as the head of some of the Nonconformists of Holland and Germany, and this body of followers of Simon Menno were then called Mennonites. Persecutions continued, and because it was so great, the Nonconformists, as well as the Mennonites, decided to emigrate to other countries, some going to Switzerland, others going to England, and so on, which was probably from 1650 to 1675 or thereabouts.

The Pennsylvanians originally came from the locality in Germany which was then known as “Palantinate” or “Pfaltz,” an old division of Germany, now discarded on maps.

The earliest arrivals to Pennsylvania came shortly after Penn in 1682, and a settlement was made at Germantown, Pa. The revocation of the edict of Nantes (a city in France) drove thousands to England, and Queen Anne (who died in 1714) made great efforts to alleviate their sufferings, spending thousands of dollars (or rather pounds)



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of her own private fortune, in their behalf. The influx of these poverty-striken people of Non-conformists (probably also of Mennonite adherents) became a menace to the English through overrowing. Many were sent to Ireland, and others were transported to the colony in New York State, settling along the Mohawk River. Disputes with the English and Dutch who settled in that colony, concerning the lands on which they had located, caused many of them to travel overland to the head of the Susquehanna River where, making rafts, they floated down the river (north branch) and settled at various points in Pennsylvania. This was probably from 1700 to 1710. Penn had invited the Mennonites of Switzerland to come and about 1709 they began emigrating to Pennsylvania, continuing for years, settling mostly in Lancaster, Berks, Franklin and Montgomery Counties.

Such is a short history of the Mennonites in Pennsylvania, and among these emigrants from Switzerland were three brothers named Abraham, Peter and Christian Guth, who are the ancestors of probably all the "Goods" of Pensylvanian stock.

Christian Guth, of whom we are descendants, was our great, great, great grandfather. He was born in Switzerland, about 1690, and emigrated to Pennsylvania with his two brothers, Abraham and Peter, in 1737. His family consisted of two sons and three daughters. The sons' names were Peter and John. As we are descendants of John, we will follow his line.

John Good was our great, great grandfather and was born in 1731. He had a family of four children,

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namely—Joseph, Jacob, Samuel, and one daughter.

Jacob Guth, our great grandfather, was born in May, 1754. His son, John, was our grandfather.

John Good (name changed here to Good), our grandfather, was born in Bowmanville, Lancaster County, Pa., on March 18, 1777. In 1800 he was married to Magdalena, daughter of Christian Baumann, who lived in Berks County, Pa. She was born January 9, 1783, and died March 22, 1859. John Good died January 10, 1862. They had a family of six children as follows;

Anna, born January 12, 1801. She was married to Matthias Haug. She died November 15, 1843, leaving no heirs. Jonathan, was born December 20, 1802, died February 2, 1834. He was not married. Joseph was born December 19, 1805. On October 4, 1835, he was married to Anna Witmore, who was born January 31, 1819. They had a family of twelve children, namely: John, married to Mary Stamm; Magdalena, married to Levi C. Erb; Elizabeth, married to John Keller; Anna, married to Nicholas Karges; Samuel, married to Rosa Geiger; Joseph, married to Isabella Shamp; Susannah, married to Henry Sitler; Sarah, married to John Sitler; Mary Ann, married to William Wilke; Israel, married to Jane Rose; Levi, married to Mary Steuernagel; Catharine (Sis), married to Rev. Albert Ross (now dead) who was at one time preacher of one of the prominent Methodist Churches in Detroit.

Magdalena, (Molly) was born in Bowmanville, Pa., January 24, 1813. She was married to Joel Weber, who died when yet a young man. They had one daughter, named Lydia, who was married



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to George Eby, and I lived at Elkhardt, Ind., where she died, still being a young woman. Molly remained a widow for about twenty years, and was then married to Soloman Gehman, with whom she had two daughters, Mary Ann and Rachael; the two sisters being married to two brothers, Samuel and James Grills, respectively.

Jocl Good, third son of John and Magdalena (Bowman) Good, was born in Bowmanville, Lancaster County, Pa., December 29, 1815. On November 5, 1839, he was married to Catharine (Bichn) Stauffer. She was born September 5, 1820, and died May 20, 1854. After her decease, he was married to Agnes, daughter of John and Jane (Calder) Hosea. She was born in Parish Rutherglen, Lanark County, Scotland, July 23, 1834. Rutherglen is adjoining Glasgow. In 1842 she came to America with her mother and grandparents, her father having been killed by an explosion while working in a coal mine. The second marriage of Jocl took place September 18, 1855. His family consisting of fifteen children, six of whom were born unto the first wife, and nine unto the second wife, namely: Jonathan, eldest son, was born January 11, 1841, was married to Esther Erb. Elizabeth was born June 16, 1843, married to Andrew Neuber; Catharine was born September 18, 1845, married to Enoch Erb; Jocl, born December 21, 1841, died July 29, 1849; Israel, born March 21, 1850, died February 4, 1855; Isaac, born March 22, 1852, married to Mary Clemmer; David, born February 6, 1856, married to Jane Wray; Franklin, born December 13, 1857, was married to Mary Hahn; Elias, born May 13, 1860,

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married Catherine Hahn; Ezra, born July 15, 1862, (died January 1, 1929), married to Caroline Kreutziger; Nelson, born January 20, 1865, (died March 7, 1914), married to Margaret Sherriffs; Susanna, born April 14, 1867, (died July 25, 1894) married to Julius Hchn; Milton, born January 26, 1870, married to Jeanette (Jean) Sherriffs; Robert, born December 31, 1872, married to Ella Wagstaff; William, born January 27, 1877, died same day.

Samuel Good, was born in Waterloo, July 27, 1823. He was married to Eva Stahl. To them were born eleven children, five having died in infancy, Jocl and Veronica not attaining the age of maturity. The four remaining children were as follows: Lydia, married to John Zurbrigg; William, married to Mary Schmidt; Levi, married to Lydia Knechtel; Samuel S., married to Salina Hartman.

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